

ATTACK OF THE DINOSAURS!

They're out to make 60 Minutes extinct

FIRST it was a furry alien, then a crazy animated American family ... and now a bunch of prehistoric creatures are to take on Nine's Sunday night heavy-weight, 60 Minutes.

Dinosaurs, a co-production between Jim Henson Productions and Walt Disney Television, premieres on the Seven Network at 8pm on February 2.

The prehistoric comedy is the latest in a line of off-beat shows that networks have slotted against the long-running 60 Minutes.

ALF and The Simpsons were successful - but not enough to break 60 Minutes' ratings stranglehold.

Only The Comedy Company in its heyday was consistently able to beat the Nine Network giant.

Now Seven is hoping that Dinosaurs, coupled with the already popular U.S. sitcom Full House (which will screen at 7.30pm), will be able to repeat the dose.

Described as a cross between The Honeymooners and The Flintstones, Dinosaurs revolves around the Sinclairs, a blue-collar family residing in 60,000,003 B.C.

Earl, a 43-year-old bombastic

BRIAN 'LOST' TO GP?

BRIAN ROONEY might not return to G.P. when the ABC series resumes production this year.

The popular 18-year-old actor is being lured back to the theatre with the promise of a leading role in Neil Simon's hit Lost In Yonkers.

"It's about two boys who end up in their grandmother's house,"

Brian says. "They're Jewish-Americans, but I'm not even going to try to do an accent yet in case I embarrass myself!"

Brian is now treading the boards in Adelaide in a production of The Wizard Of Oz, with Nancye Hayes and Bert Newton.

Critics in Brisbane were harsh on his portrayal of the scarecrow.

● You'll meet Baby Sinclair next month in an off-beat comedy that the Seven Network hopes can topple Nine's current-affairs winner.

sports green spikes atop his head and red high-tops on his monstrous feet. Unlike other dinosaurs, Robbie believes the cavemen just might have a bright future. He also has an inordinate interest in the opposite sex.

Daughter Charlene, 12, is a two-ton material girl who dwells in cave malls. She also is the apple of her father's eye.

Then there's Baby, who is hatched in the premiere episode and demands: "Okay, who's the Mummy here?"

Academy Award winner Jessica Tandy and Sally Struthers are among the voices that help bring the Sinclairs to life.

To make way for *Dinosaurs*, Seven's *The Main Event*, hosted by Larry Emdur, will move to the new timeslot of 6.30pm Sundays.

Mark McGowan



Megalosaurus, is the cigar-chomping breadwinner of the clan. He works as a tree pusher for the Wesayso Development Corporation, helping clear "ugly" forests so the company can build "lovely" dinosaur tract homes.

His wife Fran, whose tongue is sharper than her teeth, spends her time watching the *Dinosaur Shopping Network*.

Their 14-year-old son Robbie

● Cigar-chomping Earl heads the Sinclair family in *Dinosaurs*, a U.S. production.

"A couple said my voice was not too strong, which is almost true," Brian says. "I lost my voice for three days before opening night and missed the previews. The first time I did it before an audience was on opening night."

But the taste of theatre is so strong that Brian is determined it will take precedence over TV.

"We're not sure about that yet," he says. "Hopefully, I can

do both (G.P. and *Lost In Yonkers*). I did that when I was doing *Les Miserables* and G.P. We might be able to work G.P. in. Put it this way, I'll be doing *Yonkers*."

The play, to tour Australia, will co-star Ruth Cracknell and Pamela Rabe.

Allan Calleja

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